

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A vehicle sunroof comprising:

a panel moveable between a closed position and a vent position, said panel being driven to pivot between said closed and said vent positions, said vent position being defined by driving said panel to generally pivot about a forward end; and

a drive mechanism for driving said panel to pivot between said vent and said closed positions; and

a side shield for preventing access to said drive mechanism, said side shield being formed of a material allowing air passages generally over a the full extent of an exposed cross-sectional area, said side shield having a non-rectangular shape, and said side shield being attached to move with said panel between said vent and closed positions.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The vehicle A-sunroof as set forth in claim 12, wherein said side shield has a rear dimension associated with a rear end of said panel which pivots to move to said vent position, said side shield having a forward dimension associated with said panel-forward end, said forward dimension of said side shield being smaller than said rear dimension to define said non-rectangular shape.

4. (Currently Amended) The vehicle A-sunroof as set forth in claim 1, wherein said side shield is attached to move with a pivot bar, said pivot bar being a portion of said drive mechanism.

5. (Currently Amended) The vehicle A-sunroof as set forth in claim 1, wherein said the-side shield is positioned laterally inwardly of said drive mechanism.

6. (Currently Amended) The vehicle A-sunroof as set forth in claim 1, wherein there are including side shields and drive mechanisms associated with each of two opposed lateral sides of said panel, with both said side shields being positioned laterally inwardly of an associated one of said drive mechanisms.

7. (Currently Amended) The vehicle A-sunroof as set forth in claim 1, wherein said material is a mesh material.

8. (Currently Amended) A vehicle sunroof comprising:
a panel moveable between a closed position and a vent position, said panel being driven to pivot between said closed and said vent positions, said vent position being defined by driving said panel to generally pivot about a forward end; and
a drive mechanism for driving said panel to pivot between said vent and said closed positions; and

a side shield for preventing access to said drive mechanism, said side shield having a rear dimension associated with a rear end of said panel which pivots to move to said vent position, said side shield having a forward dimension associated with said forward end-of ~~said panel~~, said forward dimension-of ~~said side shield~~ being smaller than said rear dimension, said side shield being fixed to move with said panel between said vent and closed positions, and said side shield being formed of a mesh material.

9. (Currently Amended) The vehicle A-sunroof as set forth in claim 8, wherein said side shield is attached to a pivot bar, said pivot bar being a portion of said drive mechanism.

10. (Currently Amended) The vehicle A-sunroof as set forth in claim 8, wherein said the-side shield is positioned laterally inwardly of said drive mechanism.

11. (Currently Amended) The vehicle A-sunroof as set forth in claim 8, wherein there are-including side shields and drive mechanisms associated with each of two opposed lateral sides of said panel, with both said side shields being positioned laterally inwardly of an associated one of said drive mechanisms.

12. (New) The vehicle sunroof as set forth in claim 9, wherein said side shield has an upper edge attached to said pivot bar, and a lower edge attached to a lower frame structure, said pivot bar pivoting as said panel moves between said closed and vent positions such that said upper edge of said side shield moves during said pivoting movement, with said

lower edge of said side shield remaining relatively stationary, and such that said side shield covers a space between said pivot bar and said lower frame structure when said panel has moved to said vent position.

13. (New) The vehicle sunroof as set forth in claim 4, wherein said side shield has an upper edge attached to said pivot bar, and a lower edge attached to a lower frame structure, said pivot bar pivoting as said panel moves between said closed and vent positions such that said upper edge of said side shield moves during said pivoting movement, with said lower edge of said side shield remaining relatively stationary, and such that said side shield covers a space between said pivot bar and said lower frame structure when said panel has moved to said vent position.